



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

N° XX.

*Observations on a Comet lately discovered; communicated
by DAVID RITTENHOUSE, Esquire.*

Read Mar.
19, 1784.

ON the 21st of January last, John Lukens, Esquire, informed me that he had discovered a comet the preceding evening, and on the evening of the same day, assisted by Mr. Lukens and Mr. Prior, I observed the apparent place of the comet to be in the 15th degree of Pisces, with $16^{\circ} 6'$ south latitude. By subsequent observations I found its motion to be north easterly, with respect to the ecliptic, and that its nearest approach to us had preceded our first observation. It passed the ecliptic on the 31st in the 25° of Pisces, and February the 17th it was in Pisces 29° with $13^{\circ} 10'$ north latitude. This was the last time I saw it, clouds and moonlight having since prevented.

The light of this comet was so very faint that it was impossible to observe it with accuracy, at least without better instruments than I am possessed of, especially as the comet was always involved in day light, moonlight or the thick atmosphere of the horizon. No pains or attention however were wanting, and from the best observations I could make, I find it passed its perihelion about the 20th of January, its distance from the sun being about $\frac{7}{10}$ of the sun's distance from us. The place of its ascending node is in the 25th deg. of Taurus, and the inclination of its orbit 53° . Its motion is retrograde, that is, contrary to the order of the signs. I have still hopes of seeing it in the morning, though its distance is now so very great that it can scarcely be visible to the naked eye.

Extract